

## POLLUTION REPORT

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



274223

### I. HEADING

**Date:** November 17, 1993

**From:** *[Signature]* Paul R. Steadman, On-Scene Coordinator, U.S. EPA,  
Reg. V, Response Section III, EERB, Chicago, Ill.

**To:** R.C. Karl, EERB Chief, Chicago, IL (EPA9538)  
F.J. Rollins, RS-III Chief, Chicago, IL (EPA9538)  
A. Lilly, EERB CERCLIS Coordinator  
C. Graszer, ESS  
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T.K. Johnson, OSWER, EPA H.Q. (EPA5511)  
S.O. Mulroney, Assist. Regional Counsel, ORC  
G. Willman, State of Illinois EPA  
U.S. Coast Guard  
District 9 (Great Lakes Basin) FAX 216/522-2738  
District 2 (Ohio & Upper Mississippi Basin)  
FAX 314/539-2649  
U.S. DOI, Sheila Huff, Chicago Office

**Subject:** Waukegan Tar Pit Site Removal Action

**Polrep:** Final

### II. BACKGROUND

Site I.D. No: PG

Technical Direction Document No: N/A

Delivery Order No: N/A

Response Authority/Funding: PRP - Lead

CERCLA Identification: **ILD984807990**

NPL Status: Not currently listed

Start Date: 8 November 1991

Completion Date: 09 November 1993

Weather Conditions: variable

### III. INCIDENT INFORMATION:

#### A. SITUATION:

This site, created by the uncontrolled open dumping during the 1930s through the early 1970s of tar which is heavily contaminated with concentrated toluene and benzene, was operated by the North Shore Gas Company (a subsidiary of Peoples Gas, Light and Coke Company). The initial emergency response action by EPA was to determine how best to eliminate a large water filled pit with tar below the water's surface which was

attracting birds and other wildlife, and trapping them until death occurred.

The removal action was commenced as a PRP-lead and was enforced with a UAO (No. V-W-91-C-115) issued September 5, 1991. The UAO required a two phased removal action.

Phase I, removal of "visible free tar" from a pit, was completed February 13, 1992 and the final report on this phase has been received. Phase II, conduct of an extent of contamination (EOC) survey including monitor well installation, was completed September 10, 1992 and the PRPs' report for Phase II has been received July 7, 1993. A review of that report was completed and comments were submitted to the PRP for supplemental addressing.

A final site inspection by EPA to verify fulfillment of the UAO's requirements was completed on November 9, 1993.

#### **B. ACTIONS TAKEN:**

PRP has, by way of their consultant, Barr Engineers of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and their contractor, Chemical Waste Management, Inc., completed the prescribed removal in accordance with the Administrative Order issued for this action.

Actions taken included repair and installation of a site perimeter access control fence, removal and disposal of visibly contaminated soils and tars from the tar pit (1,600 yd<sup>3</sup> of contaminated soils and tars), construction of a surface impoundment cover or installation of protective liner within the "tar pit", conduct of a detailed extent of contamination (EOC) survey of the entire site area and installation of monitoring well nests at locales which clearly define the outward confines of the tar.

Baseline data establishment by the PRP from well sampling results began at the end of September 1992. Quarterly sampling of the well nest sites occurred in January 1993, April 13, 1993, July 15, 1993 and on September 10, 1993.

**C. FUTURE PLANS:**

PRPs have not commenced other operations at this site.

Next action U.S. EPA includes a meeting in early January 1994 with the ORC representative associated with this site's enforcement which will be scheduled for discussion of issuance of a subsequent Order to affect removal of the tars within this site's identified contamination zones.

**D. KEY ISSUES:**

Key issues to be addressed on this removal involve whether PRPs should now be required to remove the excess tar which has been identified and delineated in the EOC survey, and whether quarterly monitoring requirements should be imposed for an indefinite period of time.

Another issue is whether the State of Illinois' Environmental Protection Agency should retain control of this facility and obtain an HRS score for subsequent inclusion on the NPL.

**IV. COST INFORMATION:**

BUDGETED	SPENT	REMAINDER
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**TES/TAT**

**EPA**

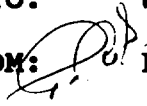
This removal action was a PRP-lead action and the PRP, namely North Shore Gas, bore the burden of the removal expense. Certain costs which are currently indeterminate and are subject to final definitization by U.S. EPA including specific oversight costs incurred by EPA which are reimbursable to EPA by the PRP as determined during cost recovery analysis.

Arlene

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**REGION V**

**EMERGENCY AND ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE BRANCH**

**DATE:** DEC 03 1993  
**TO:** Waukegan Tar Pit Site File  
**FROM:**  Paul R. Steadman, On-Scene Coordinator  
**RE:** PRP Compliance with Administrative Order  
UAO Docket No. V-W-'91-C-115  
**SITE NAME:** Waukegan Tar Pit Site (WTPS) ID #: PG

This is to certify that the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRP) for this site, including the North Shore Gas Company, North Shore Sanitary District, and the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway have complied with the Administrative Order issued for a removal action at the WTPS. I have reviewed the PRP's final report on removal activities. All removal activities specified in the Order have been completed. A final POLREP has been completed for this site.

cc: F. Rollins, Acting Chief, Response Section III  
J. Cisneros, Chief, Enforcement Support Section ✓  
R. Karl, Chief, Emergency and Enforcement Response Branch  
S. Mulroney, Asst. Reg. Counsel, ORC, EPA Reg. V